

## BUDGET WEEK

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

2 September 2003

## Week of 2 September 2003

## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) *Winston E. Arnow Federal Building Designation Act* (H.R. 1572). This bill will neither increase direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – nor reduce revenue.



2) *Ed Edmondson United States Courthouse Designation Act* (H.R. 1668). This bill will neither increase direct spending nor reduce revenue.



3) **Congratulating Lance Armstrong**. This resolution has no budget implications.



4) *J. Stephen Horn Post Office Building Designation Act* (H.R. 2309). This bill will neither increase direct spending nor reduce revenues.



5) To Amend the Securities Laws to Permit Church Pension Plans to Be Invested in Collective Trusts (H.R. 1533).



This bill changes securities laws to allow church employee pension funds to participate in the same investment vehicles, known as "collective trusts," as other employee pension plans. The bill will neither increase direct spending nor reduce revenue.

## **LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE**

Bill: District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (H.R. 2765).



**Committee:** Appropriations

**Summary:** This bill provides appropriations for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2004. The bill,

as reported, provides \$17 million for a college tuition assistance plan, \$15 million for security planning, and \$163.1 million for court services and offender supervision. It also provides \$10 million in special Federal payments for a school choice program designed to provide financial assistance to families of District school-age students attending private

and parochial schools.

(continued on reverse side)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

Cost:

H.R. 2765 provides \$466 million in new budget authority for 2004 – a decrease of \$43 million in budget authority from fiscal year 2003. Although budget authority in the bill declines by 8.4 percent from fiscal year 2003, it is \$45 million above the President's request.

**Budget Act:** 

This bill provides new budget authority equal to the 302(b) suballocation for the District of Columbia subcommittee. The bill is consistent with the House budget resolution for fiscal year 2004 (H.Con.Res. 95) and also complies with the requirements of the Congressional Budget Act. The bill does not contain emergency-designated new budget authority, advance appropriations, or rescissions of previously enacted budget authority. See the Appropriations Update for the District of Columbia Subcommittee Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2004 – H.R. 2765 at <a href="https://www.house.gov/budget/">www.house.gov/budget/</a> for additional information on this measure.

Bill: Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations

Act For Fiscal Year 2004 (H.R. 2989)

**Committee:** Appropriations

**Summary:** This bill is the first that Congress will consider on the floor that includes, in a single

measure, appropriations for the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and Related Agencies, as well as general government appropriations, as a single regular appropriations bill. Before this year, separate regular appropriations bills provided funding for the Department of Transportation and the Department of the Treasury. These appropriations bills were realigned after creation of a separate appropriations subcommittee for homeland security, which includes the Transportation Security

Administration.

Cost: The bill provides \$27.501 billion in discretionary budget authority, and reflects a reduction

of \$758 million from 2003. Although budget authority declines by 2.7 percent from fiscal

year 2003, it is \$39 million more than requested by the President.

Budget authority for certain highway and transit programs – principally the Federal-aid highways program – are classified as mandatory, while the outlays are classified as discretionary. The spending from the mandatory budget authority typically is constrained by obligation limitations. This bill contains limitations totaling \$39.916 billion, of which \$33.385 billion is for the Federal-aid highways program, and \$5.807 billion is for transit formula grants. The \$39.916 billion total is \$232 million above the amount envisioned by the budget resolution; there is no procedural prohibition, however, for exceeding the limit

anticipated by the resolution.

**Budget Act:** H.R. 2989 provides new budget authority at a level that is \$1 million under the 302(b)

suballocation for the Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies. The bill is consistent with the House budget resolution for fiscal year 2004 (H.Con.Res. 95) and also complies with the requirements of the Congressional Budget Act. The bill does not contain emergency-designated new budget authority. It does include a \$37-million advance appropriation for the Postal Service, which was requested by the administration. The budget resolution limited advance appropriations to a specified list of programs and an overall amount of \$23.158 billion. This appropriation is included in the list of allowable advance appropriations and it does not cause the overall limit to be

exceeded.

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